GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:992
ANSWERED ON:27.07.2001
PACKAGE FOR SMALL TEA GROWERS
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Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have prepared a package for the small tea growers in a few States in the Southern region of the country in a bid to cushion them against the fluctuating tea market and other seasonal hardships;

(b) if so, the details of the package;

(c) whether the Government propose to extend the package to the small tea growers in other States, too, particularly in the North-East; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefore?

Answer

MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN)

(a) & (b) : In order to protect the interests of the small tea growers particularly in South India who had been facing problem of un-remunerative price realization at the auctions, Government had implemented a Price Subsidy Scheme through the Tea Board with effect from 1.5.2000 wherein subsidy was provided to the small growers of tea (holding upto 10.12 hectares of tea plantation) for an amount equal to the shortfall between the auction price and Rs. 55 per kg subject to a maximum of Rs. 8 per kg. The Scheme was in operation upto 31.10.2000.

(c) & (d): The Price Subsidy Scheme was available during this period of operation for all tea growing areas of the country including north east subject to the criteria of average prices prevailing in the respective tea auctions. The average prices during the period of operation of the Scheme in the auction centres of the country other than South India did not consistently remain below the cut off level of Rs 55 /- per kg. As such the Scheme did not come into force in these regions.